



**MCHC**  
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**Healthcare Council**

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**VIA E-MAIL TO [pandemicinfluenza@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:pandemicinfluenza@osophs.dhhs.gov)**

October 21, 2004

Attn: Pandemic Plan  
National Vaccine Program Office  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
Room 725H, 200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Sirs & Madams:

The Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council is a membership and service organization comprised of more than 100 hospitals and health care organizations working together to improve the quality of health care services in the metropolitan Chicago area. The Council's Infection Control Subcommittee of the Committee on Clinical, Administrative, Professional & Emergency Services appreciates the opportunity to comment on the *Draft Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan*.

The *Plan* provides a good framework for response to an event that has the potential for catastrophic implications. The agencies charged with the *Plan's* implementation need to be prepared to carry out the responsibilities outlined, and it is imperative that they receive necessary funding.

The issue of contingency/backup planning needs to be addressed. For example, how would the *Plan* be implemented when there is a shortage of influenza vaccine (as we are now experiencing)? The contingency/backup plan should also address how this type of situation can be prevented in the future.

The Plan states that "*The interdependence between public and private sectors in vaccine development underscores the need for a strong public health sector capacity and infrastructure.*" It should be the goal of the Department of Health and Human Services to forge relationships with the private sector in order to effectively respond to an influenza pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. If you need clarification, please contact Linnea O'Neill, Assistant Director, Clinical, Administrative, Professional and Emergency Services at 312/906-6061 or via e-mail: [lonell@mchc.com](mailto:lonell@mchc.com).

Sincerely,

Lawrence U. Haspel, DO  
Senior Vice President